

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John Sopko on 1/15/2009. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 14-16.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-13 and 17 are allowable over the prior art, since the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a high throughput apparatus comprising at least one tubular flow through vessel having a first and a second vessel openings at opposite ends of the vessel; and a housing assembly which includes a base block having a first and a second faces, a first channel located in the base block and having a wall, a first channel opening, and a second channel opening; the first channel opening extending through the first face of the base block, the second channel opening extending through the second face of the base block, the tubular vessel being entirely accommodated within the first channel such as an annular gap is formed between the tubular flow through vessel and the wall of the first channel;; the housing assembly further including

a cover with a bottom surface extending over the first surface of the base block and over the first opening of the first channel, the bottom surface of the cover being parallel to the first face of the base block; an O-ring seal located within the first channel and configured for gastight sealing of the annular gap; a fourth channel arranged in the base block such that the fourth channel opens into the annular gap between the O-ring seal and the second vessel opening; and a feed channel for feeding fluid into the first channel, the feed channel being in fluid communication with the second opening of the first channel via the tubular flow through vessel.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance." Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalia Levkovich whose telephone number is 571-272-2462. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 2 p.m.-10 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jill Warden/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797